Occupants Relocation in Building 4727

Occupants in building 4727 are being relocated to other facilities due to concerns of elevated mold levels. A recent indoor air quality study performed by Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health Services (OMEHS) indicated certain mold levels to exceed the expected limits. Currently, there are no regulatory standards for indoor mold levels. The accepted industry practice is to compare outside air levels with inside.

This building is known to have had a previous water leak associated with the heating and air conditioning system during the spring. The leak was repaired and attempts were made to cleanup the water. In late summer, complaints were received regarding a musty odor and a few occupants experiencing sinus/allergy type symptoms. This prompted OMEHS to perform air monitoring. The results indicated inside airborne levels of aspergillus/penicillum slightly exceeded outside levels. This suggested active mold growth within the building. In the best interest of the occupants, the decision was made to relocate them to other locations on the Center. Although the situation would not be expected to present an immediate hazard to healthy individuals, it would have the possibility of creating problems for immunosuppressed persons. Vacating the building will also allow appropriate measures to determine the source of the mold and mitigate it. The relocation process is ongoing.

In an article dated July 6, 2004, http://www.bdcmag.com/news.asp?topicId=100001180&docId=l:219250788 , the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) commissioned the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to examine the health effects associated with mold exposure in indoor environments. After two years of research, the IOM report concluded that while exposure to excessively damp indoor spaces can trigger coughing, wheezing and asthma in susceptible individuals, there is no evidence that mold causes other health risks – including cancer, debilitating fatigue, immune diseases, cognitive/neurological dysfunction or asthma.

Any further questions may be forwarded to OMEHS @ 4-2390.